THE TOME SCHOOL FOR BOYS

ATHLETIC BULLETIN

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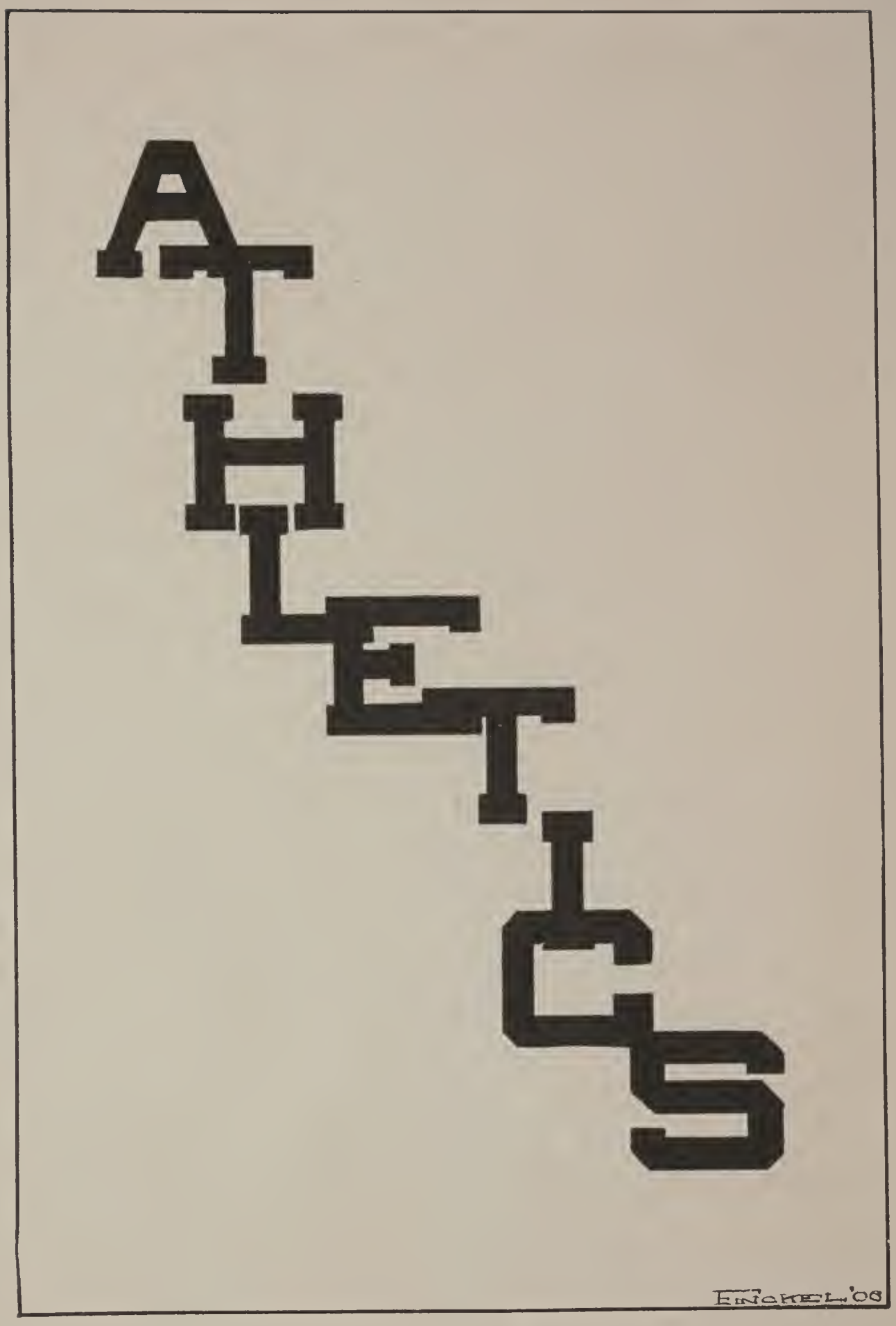

A Supplement to the Boys' Monthly Publication

"THE TOME"

By transfer
The White House
March 3rd, 1913

FOOTBALL SQUAD

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FOOTBALL

FROM the opening of school in September until its close in June, through Fall, Winter and Spring there is always something doing in Athletics. Of course, football is the great game in the Fall season and more than half the school plays it. There were eight elevens last season, ranging in weight from 100 to 150 pounds. Tome has always been strong in football—the Inter-Scholastic Champion of Maryland for seven years. Never has a Tome eleven been beaten by one of equal or less weight. Since 1900, out of fifty-eight games Tome has won forty-three, scoring over one thousand points to opponents' two-hundred and fifty-three. The school has glorious football traditions and a system of play that has proved its worth on many a hard fought field, a system that has been built up year by year, pounded out in strenuous practice—rain or shine—tried out against all kinds of odds. Although the season of '08 opened with only one veteran back from the great '07 eleven and a green team had to be built up about one man, in a short season, with a hard schedule, there has never been such football enthusiasm in the school, not only the first and second elevens, but the third, fourth, fifth, sixth, seventh and eighth struggling and pounding away day by day until the final contest, the Saturday before Thanksgiving.

TOME *vs.* HILL SCHOOL

PYTHIAN AND OLYMPIAN SOCIETIES

EVERY boy in the school belongs to one or the other of the two rival Athletic Societies; namely, the Pythian and Olympian Societies, and as these societies meet in football, baseball, track, basket-ball, gymnastics and tennis, and as the teams are graded according to weight and age, giving everyone a chance at some sport, on some team, nearly every boy can manage to represent his society in something or other during the year. No one need sit on the sidelines vainly wishing that he were good enough to make a team; there are so many teams and of such varying weights that there is a chance for all. A fellow likes to feel that he can count for something in athletics, even if he is not good enough to make the first team, and in these Pythian-Olympian contests if he scores only one point, even that is important because there are so many contests, and because the result is often in doubt until the end. In football this season, the first elevens of each society played once to a tie, the second elevens played two tie games, and the third elevens split even on the two preliminary games. The championships sometimes hang by such a slender margin that the effort of one boy may turn it to one society or the other. This gives a boy something to work for, and make him a factor in the school's athletics, while the training he gets on these minor teams is of the greatest value to him when he comes to try for the "varsity."

ELECTION TO THE SOCIETIES

FALL AND WINTER SPORTS

BUT football is not the only Fall sport at Tome. Those who are not playing football are on the tennis courts, or golf links, or perhaps cross country running, for which the country adjacent to the school is admirably suited. Soccer, basketball and gymnastics begin at Thanksgiving and continue throughout the Winter. Then, too, the school owns eight rowboats and some of the boys bring their own canoes. The river is nearly a mile wide here and is extremely picturesque, almost equaling the Hudson in scenic beauty. In January and February it usually affords superb skating. One can skim along for miles to the great Baltimore and Ohio bridge at Frenchtown, then on past the pretty village of Havre de Grace, and occasionally in extra cold seasons for miles out on the upper waters of the Chesapeake Bay. Coasting down the lower ravine is one of the most popular winter sports. Starting at the upper end of Cottage Avenue, your sled jumps off at once, glides swiftly around the long curve at the head of the hollow, and then down the ravine at a tremendous clip, scattering a sheet of icy spray at each turn and bringing up finally at the lower end of the village, a coast of nearly a half mile.

THE NEW CAGE

UNTIL this year Tome baseball men had no opportunity for preliminary batting practice. They had to learn to handle the stick during the season, only to find the schedule at an end by the time they had learned to pound the ball. With the advent of the new cage, completed in December, all this is changed. Practice begins in earnest as soon as the boys get back in January and as the cage is an unusually fine and large one, big enough to allow the batter to hit the ball as hard as he wants and to give the regular infield throw to first base, it affords fielding as well as batting practice. Beginning with this year, Tome nines will go into their earlier games a batting aggregation as heretofore they have in their later ones only. Not only batting and fielding but team play, signals, bunting, base running, and all the features of up-to-date baseball are learned during the winter. The coach is enabled to size up the most promising candidates, work with the pitchers, correct faults in batting, and get everything into shape for quick development as soon as warm weather has driven the frost out of the ground. The cage is a great thing for the track squad, also, in preparing for the mid-winter meets in Philadelphia, Baltimore and Washington. A pit has been dug for pole-vaulting, high jumping and broad jumping, and a place has been fixed for the shot putters. The sprinters practice starts and short sprints, and the hurdlers learn to negotiate the sticks. Our pole-vaulters and high jumpers, particularly, appreciate the advantage of the ground floor for winter practice under conditions similar to those which obtain in the spring, and for the hurdlers, especially the green hands, who must expect tumbles, the ground has an infinite advantage over the board floor of the gymnasium.

We find, also, that the sprinters and distance men are troubled less than ever before with sore shins—there are no hard boards to pound on. Previous to this we had no place to practice broad jumping during the winter. Now we have a pit with a seventy-foot cinder run-way. Heretofore, our shot putters practiced outside during the winter and dared not "let themselves out" for fear of straining a tendon. Now they "put" in the cage, which is never too cold for good work. The hammer is the only field event that we cannot practice, but the beginners' squad gets its preliminary foot-work in the cage. Once that is learned, the boys throw outside *for form only*, never putting forth their full strength until the spring opens. THE PYTHIAN—OLYMPIAN INDOOR MEET is the big athletic event of the winter, sandwiched as it is between the basketball games, which begin in December and continue until the middle of March. The cage has enabled us to add the short dashes, hurdles, shot put and distance runs to the list of events formerly scheduled for this mid-winter meet, and, as there are two classes in most events and three classes in the sprints, half of the boys in the school find chance to compete. It is a busy time, this winter season, for the school at large and for the athletes on the various teams. What with the baseball squad, the sprinters, the hurdlers, distance men, shot putters, high jumpers, broad jumpers and pole vaulters working in the cage, the basketball squad and the gymnastic classes in the gymnasium, the soccer teams on the quadrangle, the coasting and skating, the inter-school basketball games with Baltimore, Philadelphia and Washington teams throughout the season, and the mid-winter meets, no boy need have a dull hour.

BASEBALL SQUAD

THE SPRING SEASON

THEN comes the spring vacation, and after that the finest season of the year at Tome—the season when the superb landscape gardening of the campus is seen at its best; when the broad lawns, sweeping terraces, groups of spruce, fir, and pine and avenues of maple put forth in fresh green; when thousands of climbing roses droop in graceful arches and cluster in huge bouquets of color over the granite walls along Cottage Avenue and back of the Inn; when the air is laden with fragrance from great banks of honeysuckle flanking the entrance driveway. Then it is good to be alive, to expand your chest and drink in great draughts of the pure air; to row, swim, play baseball and tennis, swing the hammer, toss the shot, exultant in health and strength, eager to plunge into the teeming life that opens on every hand. In this season come the championship baseball games, the Pythian-Olympian baseball, track and tennis championships, the dual track meets with other schools, the trips away for the track and baseball teams, and the big annual INTER-SCHOLASTIC TRACK MEET—the crowning athletic event of the year—when a host of schoolboy athletes from Baltimore, Philadelphia, Washington and schools in the interior of Maryland, Virginia, Delaware, New Jersey, and Pennsylvania come to Tome for their annual battle; when extra cars pour crowds of spectators on to the astonished little station in Port Deposit; when the special steamboat excursion from Baltimore brings its swarms; when other hundreds in a long line of vehicles drive in from town, hamlet, and country estate to swell the crowd assembled to see the stirring contests which continue without intermission for three hours.

THE DIAMOND

THE ANNUAL INTERSCHOLASTIC MEET

THE BIG MEET

THE track and oval are situated on an elevated plateau which commands a charming view of the campus with its handsome buildings, of the Susquehanna River, gleaming in the sunlight, and of the gently rolling Harford hills beyond. The athletic field presents a stirring sight on the day of the Meet; the big, white dressing tents contrast sharply with the green of the oval, the Tome burgee flies from the flag pole on the ticket office, between two and three thousand spectators are grouped on the slope of the hill which partially encircles the track, and others are seen tramping across the campus from newly arrived trains, or driving in from the country. From the tents, athletes stream across the track and oval, limbering up for their events; their grace, activity, speed, and strength, the twenty or thirty officials, hurrying back and forth or standing at the finishing post, the dozen deputies at various parts of the grounds to preserve order and keep the track clear, make a pleasing spectacle and leave in the mind's eye a picture which long remains. The track is one of the fastest in the country and has introduced to fame some of the greatest schoolboy athletes of the East, the most prominent of whom is Melvin Shepherd, Olympic champion in the 800 and 1500 metres. Shepherd still holds the half-mile record at Tome, made six years ago. The track, by the way, is constructed in accordance with suggestions from Mike Murphy, the University of Pennsylvania's great athletic trainer and the man who, as every boy knows, had charge of the American athletes in the Olympic games at London last summer. The turns are banked slightly, distributing the strain equally in fast work and enabling the runner to hold his footing better than on a flat turn. The straightaway is 20 feet wide and the track is always in perfect condition on the day of the meet. The records are exceptionally good, as is shown by the following table: 100 yard dash, 10 seconds flat; 220 yard dash, 22 and 1-5; 440 yard run, 52 and 3-5; 880 yard run, 2 minutes, 6 seconds; mile run, 4 minutes and 42 seconds; 120 yard hurdles, 16 and 2-5; 220 yard hurdles, 25 and 4-5; broad jump 22 feet 3 and 1-4 inches; high jump, 5 feet, 11 inches; pole vault, 10 feet, 6 inches; hammer throw, 149 feet 9 inches; shot put, 47 feet and 4 inches. Baseball and track arouse about equal enthusiasm during the spring season. Every boy who can do anything at all is sure to be out; if he cannot make the school nine, he drops back into one of the society teams; if he cannot make the school track team, he competes in the first, second or third class in the Annual Pythian-Olympian Meet.

TRACK TEAM

WINTER MEETS

OUR teams usually attend three or four mid-winter meets; particularly, the Georgetown University Meet, the Federal Games at Washington, and the Johns Hopkins University Meet at Baltimore, and training begins as soon as the boys return from the Christmas holidays. Tome has made rather remarkable records at these meets in the past three or four years, and when our boys, wearing the big blue "T" are seen limbering up on the track, spectators who keep in touch with athletics from year to year, sit up prepared to take notice. Seldom are they disappointed. Not a year has passed since Tome began attending these games but that has been marked by some startling performance by one of her fleet athletes. At the Federal Games last year (between 300 and 400 athletes competing) Gill, our star sprinter, electrified the spectators and distinguished himself by defeating Rector, Cartmell, and other college cracks from scratch in the invitation fifty yard dash. This year, with a green team of seven boys, we won second place among the preparatory schools and but for the failure to notify two of our sprinters who had won their heats in the preliminaries, we would have won first and captured the University of Pennsylvania Alumni Trophy Cup. Four years ago, our relay team's defeat of the celebrated Brown Prep Quartet at the Georgetown University Meet, the classical mid-winter athletic event of the middle Atlantic Coast, was the sensation of the evening. The record then made still stands, although the following year we ran within one second of it without being pushed, finishing fifty yards ahead of our competitor. The Washington meets are the most attractive of any we attend, although the Fifth Regiment Armory in Baltimore, with its 100 yard straightaway and commodious dressing rooms, is infinitely better than Convention Hall. But, somehow, we prefer to go to Washington, drawn perhaps by the charm of the city itself, with its magnificent public buildings and its air of official dignity as the seat of the National Government. Unconsciously, our heads come up a bit as we walk its streets and inhale, with the balmy breezes which seem always to blow in Washington, something of the inspiration, something of the aspiration, something of the patriotism of which the official manifestation of our country's greatness before us, is a symbol.

TRACK TEAM

SWIMMING POOL

FOOTBALL SQUAD

BASEBALL DIAMOND

TENNIS COURTS

SUMMARY OF SPORTS

FOOTBALL, baseball, track, basketball and tennis championships with other schools.

Minor championships in football, baseball, track and basketball among ourselves. Inter-society tennis and golf championships.

The Annual Mid-Winter Indoor Meet.

The Annual Inter-Scholastic Field and Track Meet.

ADDITIONAL RECREATIONS

Boating, Swimming, Skating, Coasting, Soccer, Tramping, Cross Country Running.

EQUIPMENT

Gymnasium, Batting Cage, Swimming Pool, Football and Baseball Fields, Quarter Mile Cinder Track, Tennis Courts, Golf Links and a Fleet of Row Boats.

Such, in brief, is an outline of the athletic activities of our boys, activities which extend through the entire school, from the biggest, oldest and best athletes, to the smaller and least experienced ones; which afford opportunity for pleasurable competition to all; which stretch in an unbroken chain of attractive events throughout the school year, varying the work of the classroom and developing in our boys, under the most favorable conditions, a plentiful supply of vigor and energy to serve as the physical driving force for sustained effort later in life. Neither photograph nor text conveys an adequate idea of the beautiful situation of the school, of the charm of its surroundings, or of the scope of its activities. At best we can give but a bird's-eye view, subject to the limitations of the written page and lacking the color which nature alone can paint into the landscape, the sparkle and zest which a superb climate can infuse into the picture.

THE SCHOOL

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